



# Morningside Church

## Sermon Discussion Guide

**Title: The Love of God**

**Date: June 7, 2026**

**Scripture Text: Jonah 4**

### **Notes:**

As we finished [Jonah 3](#), we see one of the greatest revivals in history. An evil city, most powerful in the world, hears God's message as delivered by Jonah and repents of their wickedness. God relents and instead of destroying them, is pleased with their submission to Him. If the story ended here, we would assume it would be a time of celebration and praising God for His grace and compassion, His slowness of anger and abundant lovingkindness. But that was not the case, at least not for Jonah. As we wrap up the book of Jonah, let's take a look at how Jonah responds to God sparing Ninevah and why he responds that way...

#### **I. The Sulking Saint (Jonah 4:1-4)**

At a time, worthy of thankfulness and praise, Jonah sulks and is angry. Ninevah didn't get what he thought they deserved. God spared them and he felt like he wasted his time. This from a man who himself experienced God's grace and mercy in [chapter 2](#). Now he is ready to see Ninevah struck down. We seldom want to be judged by the same standard we judge others.

- How would you describe the reason for Jonah's anger?
- What are the characteristics of God Jonah mentions in [v. 2](#)?
- Jonah complains that God demonstrated these characteristics toward Ninevah. How does Jonah's complaint indicate that through his anger he had the wrong perspective?
- God in [v. 4](#) asked Jonah if he had a good reason to be angry. Did Jonah have a good reason to be angry?
- How has anger affected your perspective?
- When we find ourselves in a similar situation as Jonah, what can we do to subside our anger?
- In your experience, when has anger solved a problem?
- How do we forfeit God's peace when we're angry?
- How do we compromise our effectiveness for God when we're angry?
- Thinking back when you've been angry, how would you answer God's question He posed to Jonah in [v. 4](#)?



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### **II. A Sovereign Savior ([Jonah 4:5-9](#))**

Jonah has nothing further to say concerning God sparing Ninevah. Having voiced his objection, he departs from the city and finds a place to observe what will become of Nineveh. He is determined to persevere in the hope that God, given time, will reconsider His position and exact judgement upon the Ninevites. While he is waiting, God provides a plant to give Jonah shade and deliver him from his discomfort. The next day God removes the plant, by means of a worm, and Jonah again wishes God to take him. “Death is better to me than life”, said Jonah.

- God provided a plant to shade Jonah and give him comfort. What are examples of comforts God provides for us today?
- How can we cling to the enjoyment of life’s comforts too much and miss being available when it comes to the needs of others?
- How did Jonah lose perspective when God removed the plant, i.e., the source of his comfort?
- What should be the source of our true comfort?
- How do we find comfort in God?
- How does God’s comfort help us keep an awareness of the needs of others?

### **III. A Sound Standpoint ([Jonah 4:10-11](#))**

“The last word, however, rests with the Lord. By contrasting Jonah’s attitude to the gourd with his attitude towards the Ninevites, God highlights where the real absurdity lies. Jonah is filled with compassion regarding a mere plant, yet remains hard-hearted towards the entire population of a city. He shows concern for one small item of God’s creation, yet fails to care for a large mass of people, who, like Jonah himself, were made in the divine image. The inconsistency rests not with God but with Jonah.” (Alexander)

- The final verses of the book focus on God’s right to destroy or to deliver. It is a matter of trust for Jonah. Trusting that God knows best. What are personal examples when things may not have gone as you thought they should, but you had to trust that God knew what was best?
- How can we grow in having God’s perspective instead of a self-focused perspective?
- How can we grow in our love for others, as God does?
- How can we guard against an attitude like Jonah?

*“We think that we do well to be angry with the rebellious, and so we prove ourselves to be more like Jonah than Jesus.” — Charles Spurgeon*

*“Lord, make me less like Jonah and more like Jesus... Save me from being the kind of person who cares more about my comfort, my reputation, and my success than I do about the people You are calling me to serve.” — Colin S. Smith*